



PRESTON HEDGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th November

www.prestonhedges.northants-sch.uk

WELCOME BACK!

We want to warmly welcome everyone back to school! Although the UK has gone in to a lockdown, we are really happy that schools are still open for our fabulous children.

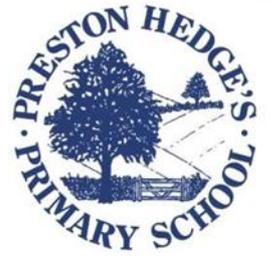
Thank you so much to so many of you for wearing masks on the school site – it is much appreciated. Could we just ask that once you arrive, you immediately drop off or pick up your child then leave the site. We have a few parents who are waiting for other parents and children to arrive, particularly in a morning. Although we recognise the desire for children to enter class with their best friend, in the current climate if we could just keep this to a minimum and keep on moving, we would be really grateful.

READING, READING, READING!



One of the most important things a child can do to help their learning outside of school is to read, read, read!

We have been looking at our in school and out of school reading activities and are making some changes:



Preston Hedge's Book Club

Classic Texts have been replaced with the Preston Hedge's Book Club! Each year group from Year 2 upwards (Year 1 will join in in Term 5) will have a class book that they will read with the teacher at the end of the day and discuss in class with the teacher on a Friday. The class books will be a reasonable challenge for the children, but will be chosen by the teachers and the children to excite, enthuse and engage!

These will be chosen from a range of genres and themes, so that the children will get a chance to engage with lots of types of stories and language styles.

Reading Rewards

One of the comments that we frequently heard on Parents Evening was the difficulty that parents were having in getting their children to read outside of school.

Therefore, we are putting in place a reward scheme to be an incentive to our children, and that recognises time and amount read, linking into new homework expectations about reading (detailed in the next paragraph!)

Reception, Y1 and Y2. This reward is linked in to how many times the children read their reading book with an adult at home, and hopefully, is well achievable for our children, so please remember to log your reading in your child's reading log, as this will be used for the reward:

Bronze Reading Certificate	Silver Reading Certificate	Gold Reading Certificate	Platinum Reading Certificate	Reading Superstar badge
10 sessions of home reading	25 sessions of home reading	50 sessions of home reading	75 sessions of home reading	100 sessions of home reading

Y3-6: 2 reading incentives, linked to how many pages and how much time is spent reading in a week. This can be their school reading book, or another of appropriate challenge that the children are reading at home. Please ensure that your child writes the title of their book down, how many pages have been read and for how long, and please could you sign it off as parents:

Copper badge	Bronze badge	Silver badge	Gold Badge	Platinum badge	Extreme reader badge
Read 50 pages	Read 100 pages	Read 250 pages	Read 500 pages	Read 1000 pages	Read 3000 pages
For every full 10 minutes a child reads above and beyond their reading homework expectation, they achieve a point towards the 'class pot'.					



For every 100 points the class achieves, there will be a class reward (agreed in discussion with the teacher).

When the equivalent of 120 additional hours have been reached, there is a celebration event (again agreed as a class).

All pupils must contribute something to the 'class pot' to achieve the reward.

The class that reads the most across the entire year will receive our reading trophy to hold the following year!

We are hoping we can give out lots of badges and rewards!

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS



We have evaluated our homework systems and have a couple of changes to better support our children in their learning. Please see below the homework expectations for your child's year group:

Reception

Weekly reading and phonics flashcards (the flashcards will start within the next 2 weeks)

Year One

Spellings, weekly reading 3 x a week and phonics homework (we are organising a Phonics Play account for our children in Y1 to support this, so phonics homework will launch within the next 2 weeks)

Year Two

Y2 - Alternate Maths or English weekly, spellings weekly and reading 3 x a week

Year Three

Y3 - Alternate Maths or English weekly, spellings weekly and reading for a **minimum** of 45 minutes a week

Year Four



Y4 - Weekly Maths, weekly spellings, fortnightly SPAG and reading for a **minimum** of 45 minutes a week

Year Five

Y5 - Weekly Maths, weekly spellings, fortnightly SPAG and reading for a **minimum** of 60 minutes a week

Year Six

Y6 - Weekly Maths, weekly spellings, fortnightly SPAG and reading for a **minimum** of 60 minutes a week

If you have any questions about homework, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your class teacher

SOMETHING LOVELY!!!!



During these strange times, I thought it would be nice to celebrate a bit! One of our Y4 pupils battled miserable, wet and windy conditions and went on to win the Y4 Girls' National Primary Schools Cross Country competition, held at Prestwold Hall in Loughborough last Saturday!

The event was England Athletic and local council approved as Covid secure, and although we might not have more of these for a while, we thought it was a good time to appreciate and celebrate. Well done - we're very proud of you!

Y5/6 CHRISTMAS & RECEPTION NATIVITY PERFORMANCES

This is usually the most exciting part of the school year, both for the children and the teachers!

Although we cannot do all of our usual things if this involves our community, we are still planning to do our nativity and Y5/6 production - Hollywood style!



We plan on videoing both of these productions, enabling the children to safely sing in small groups outdoors and remain in their bubbles, but further information will follow shortly!

Have a wonderful weekend!